



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: Wednesday, 28th November 2018 (7:00pm)**

at Winifred Kettle Day Centre

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (22)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. CoE Parish (CoE)                      | 13. Travelliin' Strings (TST)               |
| 2. Daisy Hill FC (DHFC)                  | 14. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP) |
| 3. Daisy Hill in Bloom (DHIB)            | 15. Westhoughton Community Choir (WCH)      |
| 4. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)  | 16. Westhoughton Community Royalty (WCR)    |
| 5. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)        | 17. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) |
| 6. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS) | 18. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)      |
| 7. Grub Tubs (Urban Outreach) (UO)       | 19. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC)     |
| 8. Hope Church (HOPE)                    | 20. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPG)         |
| 9. Howfen Radio (HR)                     | 21. Wingates Band (WB)                      |
| 10. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)    | 22. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)             |
| 11. Senior Solutions (SNS)               | ~ Co-op Members (COOP)                      |
| 12. Town Crier (TC)                      |   |

#### Individuals in attendance (21)

Janice Bayliss (WOW)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Ian Templeman (DHFC)
Johnny Crook (WPG/TC)	Julie Loughran (SNS)	Michelle Todd (SNS)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Joy Mooney (WB)	James Wilson (CoE/UO)
Tim Eden (TST/HR)	Elsa Parker COOP	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Dave Fensome (WMADS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)	Ann Benn (FoEL) SECRETARY
Sandra Greenall (WCR)	Veronica Swinburne (DHIB/WCH)	Chris Buckley (WCN) CHAIR

#### Apologies (16)

Doreen Booth (Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild); Paul Budd (The Hub); Ann Butler (Westhoughton High School); Jayne Caldwell (Guiding UK); Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group); David Chadwick (Westhoughton Town Council); Rev'd Lesley Dinham (Westhoughton Methodist Church); Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (Barking Berrys); Stephen Freeborn (Friends of Westhoughton Station); Dave Hendry (Westhoughton Art Group); Bob Latham (St. James Daisy Hill); Dennis Lee (George Formby Society); Susan Missin (Harold Daniels Legacy Fund); Bob Naylor (Daisy Hill FC); Jason Taylor (Bethel Crowd); Mike Wood (John Holt Centre / WAVE)



## 2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chris Buckley took on chairing duties and began by thanking Bolton Cares for the use of the Winifred Kettle Day Centre providing an alternative venue for the meeting at short notice, and also Senior Solutions for arranging refreshments.

Apologies were noted, and included one from Paul Budd, the new Centre Manager at Westhoughton Hub, who hoped to attend a future meeting: Chris read out an update from Paul about 'The Hub' listing activities and groups, and wanting to work with other centres in the community to avoid duplication of offerings [matters arising from last meeting].

Invited by Westhoughton High School, Chris had recently presented the GCSE certificates and awards at a Leavers' Presentation Evening; giving a short speech on community and WCN, sharing this: Formed in 2011, WCN had met 30 times, with 241 people attending these meetings, representing 95 groups and organisations across Westhoughton and Bolton.

## 3. Wingates Band

Joy Mooney, having missed recent meetings whilst helping husband Dave recuperate from a heart-attack, was able to give an update on the Band. She thanked WCN and the wider community for their support over the past year; the Band is now more financially secure, and in a better place with a good band spirit and new young players coming through. Back amongst the elite of the brass banding world, they performed again at the British Open in Birmingham in September. With funding received from Co-op Local Causes they will be embarking on a music therapy project, using music to help those with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) issues – both ex- military and other community agencies. Joy spoke about upcoming Christmas concerts during December (Victoria Hall [8th] and St. John's Wingates [13th]), and talked about the Wingates Band Supporters Club (fees £20 annually, which include regular newsletters and 2 free concert tickets).

In the short/medium term a priority for the Band will be improving the Band Hall; either a complete refurbishment or a rebuild with a community facility. Estimated costs £250-£450k. Consultations and high-level discussions are ongoing.

## 4. Co-op Local Causes

Elsa Parker, Co-op Members Pioneer, gave an update on Local Causes funding, in which community groups and charities can apply for a share of The Fund which distributes the 1% raised by members buying Co-op own-branded products and services to causes in 1,500 local communities – the Fund is worth £19m. Locally three causes are chosen annually, and here in Westhoughton beneficiaries this year were W.A.S.P. and Wingates Band each receiving over £8,000. The coming year will see some Horwich groups benefitting as selected from this region. The selection process for the next round will start in the Spring - [Co-op Causes](#).

Chris thanked Elsa for her engagement with and commitment to our community.



## 5. Grub Tubs

James Wilson gave an update on Urban Outreach Winter Watch activities which provide support for some 400 people across Bolton. 4,500 Christmas Hampers ('Christmas Dinner on Jesus') are to be distributed across Bolton before Christmas; Westhoughton has been tasked with providing Christmas puddings and non-alcoholic drinks. James gave a summary of all the yearly support needed and provided, now including cash support which can be ring fenced for local families. It is a well-oiled operation, and Urban Outreach remains very grateful for the support and generosity shown by the Westhoughton Community. Grub Tubs are located across [Westhoughton](#) | [Items List](#).

## 6. Information Share

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** – quieter on the lodge post-summer, Trevor Benn was able to announce a successful Big Lottery Fund bid worth £10,000 for 2019. Working with Bolton-based Playing For Success, projects will include educational activities with local schools, initiatives to allow OAPs to enjoy the lodge, as well as community activities over the summer and the end of summer Family Funday.

*There was a short break for refreshments and catching-up...*

**Rotary Club of Westhoughton** - Steve Harrington. In this its 70th anniversary year this is an important time for local Rotarians with the ever-popular Santa Sleigh run between 8th and 22nd December – weekends around the town centre and evening visits to Westhoughton estates. This fundraising activity supports local groups and charities. Their Christmas Music evening is 12th December at Brookfield Hall.

**Westhoughton Poetry Group and Town Crier** - Johnny Crook spoke of his activities in Bolton and Westhoughton with both his poetry group and Town Crier duties. The Westhoughton groups meets on the last Thursday of the month at 2pm at the Library – new members are always welcome. Johnny is more than happy to don his regalia and support local events as Town Crier. Information is on the WCN website, where some of the group's poetry can be found. Johnny is also involved in **Howfen Radio** with his Poetry Corner show broadcast Wednesdays 2-3pm.

**Daisy Hill in Bloom** – Veronica Swinburne reported that because of the mild autumn some summer blooms remained; there are some small saplings to be planted (donated by Queens Canopy initiative). A first Community Litter Pick of 2019 is planned for Sunday, 20th January (meet 1pm at St. James Church). The groups meets on Tuesday, 15th January, 7:30pm at Daisy Hill Cricket Club to discuss future activities. Veronica took the opportunity to mention the **Westhoughton Community Choir** which meets Monday evenings 7:00-8:30pm at the Hope Centre; always looking for new singers, the group held an Open Evening early October. They will be performing around Westhoughton over the Christmas period.

**WOW (Women of Westhoughton)** – Janice Bayliss gave an update on the group with details of the New Year programme of activities and events for the women's social and activity group, including a clog dancing session with renowned expert



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Alex Fisher on 31st January. Group meets Thursdays, from 7:30pm at the Hope Centre. Their Christmas Party is at Brookfield Hall (14th). Chosen by the group's members, this year's supported charity is Bury Cancer Support Network.

**W.A.S.P. (Westhoughton Age support Project)** – Wilf Dillon was warmly welcomed by the group, on the mend following recent health issues. Enthusiastic as ever about the activities and trips organised for local senior citizens. The upcoming Christmas party at Brookfield Hall not only feeds and entertains W.A.S.P. members but another 60 OAPs are invited to join. Wilf thanked the Co-op for their Local Causes award; the amount came as quite a surprise, and will sustain the group and its activities over the coming year.

Ted Wisedale gave an update on **Westhoughton Local History Group**, reminding the room of 96 year old Wilf Dillon being featured in a recent 'Keayed Characters' folio detailing his colourful and amazing life. The group has worked hard to put together the current exhibition 'Westhoughton in the Wake of World War One' – a fascinating insight into how the war affected Westhoughton and how it recovered. The exhibition at the Library will run until the end of the year. This popular group does research, organises trips and has regular speakers; meeting 10am-12pm on the first and third Thursday of the month at the Library.

**Daisy Hill FC**, represented by Ian Templeman, is well into their season with both league and cup matches at New Sirs and away. Promoting grassroots football, there is a Senior Team and an Under-18 side. They are grateful for the support of WCN and the wider community, and are always glad to see new faces. There are also opportunities to volunteer and give valuable time to the club. Clubhouse open on match days also has occasional events – recently a Las Vegas 'Casino Night'.

**Senior Solutions** – Michelle Todd reported on a busy year, with the Tuesday Social Group going well; the group had a special performance by the 'On The Go' drama group of 'Fish To Flanders' marking Remembrance Day. A current project is 'Time For You' aimed at supporting carers all over Bolton. The group has been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the 'Health and Wellbeing Investment Fund' through Bolton CVS. They continue to build links with Westhoughton High School with intergenerational projects including the 'adopt a Grand Parent' initiative, which is enthusiastically supported by the pupils. Senior Solutions has been nominated for a 'Queens Award for Volunteering', vetting for this prestigious award (MBE for Voluntary Sector) is ongoing. WCN members wished them well.

**Travellin' Strings** - Tim Eden spoke of yet another busy time performing across Bolton and beyond, fundraising and supporting organisations such as Horwich Dementia Café, Macmillan's Cancer, St. John's Wingates, and National Association of Women's Clubs (WOW), Ramblers Groups and Jigsaw (stroke group). Tim has a show on **Howfen Radio**, which is going well; his, a 1960s music show with guests talking about musical influences...

**Friends of Westhoughton Station** – Brian Leyden commented that although activities had slowed down due to the changing seasons, the group will festoon the station with Christmas decorations and festive touches. Refurbishment of fencing is



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planned, despite some difficult conditions underfoot on the slopes. Volunteers meet every Sunday from 9am to work at the station. The group's AGM will be held on Monday, 21st January, 7:30pm at St. John's Church (Wingates). Watch out for donations boxes at local businesses!

**Friends of Daisy Hill Station** - Jack Speight reported the mild winter means they are still dead-heading the summer blooms! There remain some problems related to Station Maintenance (access to water). A new bench and planters remembering Bill Greenhalgh is in situ. Regular monthly work sessions on Sundays (from noon).

**Westhoughton Methodist ADS** – Dave Fensome told us of the upcoming Pantomime ('Aladdin'), currently busy rehearsing with performances over the weekends of 8th/9th and 15th/16th February. The group enjoyed the recent two plays/one evening performances, which showcased the talents all WMADS members, and will look to do similar events. The group, which has been going over 40 years, meets on a Monday evening and welcomes new involvement – on-stage or off. It is a busy time for **Westhoughton Methodist Church** with Christmas services and special carol services – all welcome. The church hall is venue for a number of activities and a luncheon club.

Mark Taylor reported that the **Hope Centre** remains busy with a full programme of groups and activities; the Church has a family-friendly gathering on Sunday from 10:30am. Their Christmas Carol Service is Sunday, 16th December, and features the **Westhoughton Community Choir**.

James Wilson gave an update on the **Westhoughton CoE Churches** as the Advent and Christmas period approach. The Parish covers St. Bart's, St. James' (Daisy Hill), St. George's, St. John's (Wingates), St. Thomas' and St. Katharine's (Blackrod). A new Team Rector, Rev Carol Pharaoh, will be joining the Parish after New Year. St. Bart's is the focal point for a number of Civil Events organised by **Westhoughton Town Council**; in spite of rain the 100th anniversary Remembrance Day service and wreath laying was very well attended, and the Pretoria Pit Disaster (1910) Remembrance Service and wreath laying is scheduled for 21st December. James circulated a list of events and Christmas activities.

A WCN information sheet detailing all Christmas Services at all our local churches will be made available for download for those who wish to attend regular, carol of crib services over the period.

*Groups are reminded to let WCN know of future and future activities so they can be added to website/calendar and promoted via social media between meetings.*

## 7. Any Other Business

Chris Buckley gave information about other upcoming events:

- **Barking Berry's** Christmas Fun Dog Show taking place at Lands Farm, Hindley Road, Daisy Hill on Saturday, 2nd December (12-4pm). Scarlett and family's fundraising for animal charities from Dog shows, other events, and online auctions now approaching £40,000.



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- **St. James' Church** has the latest of its Concert Series (a Cello Duo) on Friday, 30th November; supporting upcoming musicians and taking advantage of the fine acoustics of church. The church has an Open Doors 10am-12pm on the first Saturday of the month – refreshments, bookstall, community and church news.
- The **Schools Carol Service** and **Christmas Lights Switch-on**, organised by the Town Council is at St. Bart's on Friday, 30th November - 7pm (carols); 8pm (lights). Refreshments afterwards in school hall.
- **Bethel Crowd** has a Christmas show, 'Nativity', over the weekend of 18th and 19th December; and their annual pantomime, 'Little Red Riding Hood' takes place Friday/Saturday 18th/19th and 25th/26th January, 7:15pm with matinees at 2:15pm on the Saturdays.
- Those wishing to enquire about the **Westhoughton Hub** should contact Paul Budd on 01942 635985 or visit the new website [thehubwesthoughton.com](http://thehubwesthoughton.com).
- On a significant note, Chris informed the group that **W.A.C.O.** (Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation) was formally dissolved and wound up at an Extraordinary AGM on 28th October, with leftover money going to Westhoughton Lions Rugby Club. The group had an amazing record of putting on events and bringing forward community initiatives over the last decade, including several 'It's A Knockout' events, the Communiversity (community hub), fundraising for charities and to support Westhoughton community groups – many groups here benefitting. Special mention to outgoing Chair Kellie McGarry who did so much with passion and enthusiasm – now managing 'The Bug', her time is taken up. The spirit of W.A.C.O. will live on; those involved will continue their activities within the community. WCN formally thanked the group for all its efforts, showing appreciation for what it had done and achieved.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and their contributions, and Ann Benn for minuting the meeting.

Meeting finished at 9:15pm.

## 8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at

**John Holt Centre**

**Tuesday, 12th February 2019 | 7pm**

[WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk](http://WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk)

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